

Plymouth Community Preservation Committee Minutes for Thursday June 8, 2023

The CPC met at 6:00 pm Center for the Arts. In-person meeting only.

In attendance were: Bill Keohan – Chair, Joan Bartlett – Vice Chair, Karen Buechs, Allen Hemberger, Birgitta Kuehn, John Mahoney, and Randy Parker. Absent were: Russ Shirley and Mike Tubin.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

No Minutes were reviewed.

Project Reviews

The Chair gave reports and up-dates on the status of the following projects:

- Stephens Field
- Siever property
- 2023 Fall Town Meeting Articles 9A – 9G (see Agenda)

Old Business

The annual CPC Open Public Meeting will be held at the 1820 Courthouse at 6p on 6/29/2023. CPC members will discuss the application process for Open Space/Recreation, Housing, and Historic projects. Town Meeting members, advocacy groups, stakeholders, and Town officials will be notified.

The draft CPC application for 2023-2024 is available for review and comment.

The final version of the *CPC Responsibilities Memorandum* has been edited and is available for review and comment. The *Memorandum* will be attached to CPC applications for reference.

The Town Manager present at the meeting recommended part-time administrative support for the CPC. The topic will be discussed at future CPC meetings.

The Town Manager suggested that CPC join the statewide Community Preservation Coalition for information, and representation and lobbying at the State level. The annual cost is ~\$7900 for the Town of Plymouth. The topic will be discussed at future CPC meetings.

Legal assistance for the CPC. In the past CPC has had a lawyer on retainer for routine work such as conservation and historic restrictions, and property transfers that require a quick turn-around. Currently CPC has no lawyer on retainer. Town officials would prefer CPC use existing in-house lawyers at Town Hall.

New Business

Gurnet Light (seven acres) has been listed as surplus property by the U.S. General Services Administration. The property is available at no cost for qualifying organizations for conservation, education, and cultural purposes. The deadline for a letter of interest is 7/14/2023.

A Project Closeout list was sent to the CPC Chair regarding CPC project funds that have not been used. The unused funds will be returned to the corresponding CPA accounts maintained by the Town.

Public Comment

Through the CPC Chair, Jan Rushforth addressed the Town Manager and Selectboard members present at the meeting to request that the integrity and autonomy of the CPC be maintained without undue interference from Town officials. Any appearance of a conflict of interest between Town offices and the CPC application process should be avoided. Ms. Rushforth reminded everyone that CPC articles are decided at Town Meeting, and that process must continue.

Invoices

\$16,000.00 to Scooter Demo for demolition and removal of structures at Siever property.

\$12,500.00 to Building Conservation Associates, Inc. (Newton Center) for archival architectural drawings for 1857 Plymouth Foundry (Cobb & Drew) on Water Street.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

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